

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**Resolution Number 19-4.14**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE VOLUNTARY REDUCTION AND ULTIMATE ELIMINATION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS AND POLYSTYRENE AND THE OVERALL REDUCTION OF PLASTICS; PROVIDING FOR AN OUTREACH CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC, K-12 STUDENTS AND BUSINESSES REGARDING THE HARM CREATED BY PLASTIC STRAWS AND POLYSTYRENE AND PLASTIC IN GENERAL TO TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENTS; ESTABLISHING COLLABORATIVE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, approximately 8.8 million tons of plastic pollution flows into the oceans each year and this amount is expected to double by 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, plastic straws and expanded polystyrene (EPS) products are not compostable or biodegradable, but instead photodegrade into smaller pieces which are then ingested by terrestrial and marine life and can eventually make its way into the human food chain and water supply generating a serious threat to our natural environment, marine and wildlife and to human health; and

**WHEREAS**, a resolution supporting reduction of single use plastic straws and EPS also supports Martin County's Resolution No. 16-15.16 that recognizes the need for collaborative efforts to preserve, protect and enhance the southeast Florida coastal waters and establishing goals concerning their environmental, ecological and socioeconomic value;

**WHEREAS**, reduction of single-use plastic straws and EPS is a strategy to reduce marine debris and address the decline in coral reef ecosystems supports the South East Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI) and Coastal Ocean Task Force (COTF) region that includes Martin County;

**WHEREAS**, Martin County and the City of Stuart jointly consider reduction and ultimate elimination of single-use plastic straws and EPS and implementation of an education and outreach campaign of high importance;

**WHEREAS**, it can be acknowledged that many county and city businesses have taken affirmative steps to reduce single-use, non-recyclable plastics and that these and other proactive efforts to ultimately eliminate pollution by plastics are encouraged;

and

**WHEREAS**, entering into collaborative partnerships with University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Florida Sea Grant, a technical and science-based extension of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Treasure Coast Chapter of Surfrider Organization, dedicated to the protection of the ocean and beaches, and other similar organizations with common goals is mutually beneficial;

**WHEREAS**, Martin County's Strategic Plan includes strategic goals focused on a strong local economy, environmental protection and conservation; and

**WHEREAS**, Martin County encourages and supports the reduction of single-use straws and overall reduction of plastic with the ultimate goal of elimination of plastic pollution in terrestrial and marine environments in furtherance of the protection of aquatic life and public's health, safety, and welfare.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Martin County Board of County Commissioners that:

- A. An outreach program to educate the public, including residents, visitors, K-12 students and businesses regarding the harm to terrestrial and marine environment created by plastic straws, polystyrene and plastic products in general shall be implemented on or prior to July 31, 2019.
- B. A review of Martin County's purchasing policies shall be conducted prior to July 31, 2019. The purpose of this review is to strive to eliminate the use of single use plastics for County operations and events through waste prevention and use of biodegradable service ware alternatives, except as may be necessary to meet public safety needs by the end of 2020.
- C. All Martin County businesses are encouraged to discontinue providing plastic drinking straws, plastic stirring sticks, and similar plastic items and polystyrene products as soon as possible.
- D. Martin County businesses that provide a product for which a plastic straw, plastic stirring stick and similar plastic items and polystyrene products may be used are encouraged to reduce single-use service ware or offer alternative biodegradable, marine friendly items as substitutes, and to provide a plastic straw only when an individual insists upon such product.
- E. A collaborative regional partnership should be established with UF/IFAS FL Sea Grant and the Treasure Coast Chapter of Surfrider Organization and other entities that share in the common goals to reduce and ultimately eliminate plastic pollution;
- F. Martin County supports efforts to repeal current state laws that preempt local government regulation of plastic bags and containers and local government regulation of the use and sale of polystyrene products.

- G. A copy of this resolution shall be provided to the City of Stuart, UF/IFAS Florida Sea Grant and the Treasure Coast Chapter of Surfrider Organization, the Loggerhead Marinelife Center, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Florida Oceanographic Society, Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program, Martin County School Board, Rivers Coalition, Students for H2O and the South East Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI) and Coastal Ocean Task Force (COTF).
- H. All Martin County residents and visitors are encouraged to reduce single use plastic through waste prevention and discontinue the use of plastic drinking straws, plastic stirring sticks and similar plastic items and polystyrene. Furthermore, all Martin County residents and visitors are encouraged to politely refuse to accept such items, if offered by a business.
- I. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its execution.

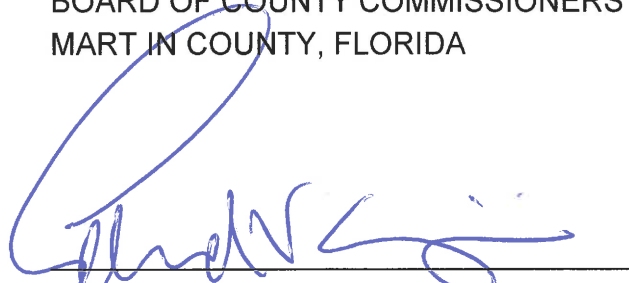
**DULY ADOPTED** this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2019.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MART IN COUNTY, FLORIDA



CAROLYN TIMMANN,  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
AND COMPTROLLER



EDWARD V. CIAMPI, CHAIRMAN

Approved As To Form and Legal Sufficiency:



KRISTA A. STOREY,  
ACTING COUNTY ATTORNEY